



U.S. Department of
Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

**NEWS
RELEASE**
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WICHITA MAN INVOLVED IN STANDOFF RECEIVES 14-YEAR SENTENCE

WICHITA, Kan. – A Wichita man was sentenced Monday to 14 years in federal prison on charges of possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute and using a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Nicholas C. Depetris, 27, received a 168-month sentence during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Wesley E. Brown in Wichita. In July, Depetris held law enforcement officers from four federal, state and local agencies at bay for hours when he took cover in a house in Bentley, Kan., and refused to come out.

“Mr. Depetris endangered himself, other occupants of the house in which he hid, nearby neighbors who had to be evacuated and law enforcement officers during a six-hour standoff leading up to his arrest July 28, 2005,” said U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren. “He ignored agents who attempted to negotiate, cajole and finally to threaten him into surrendering. Officers were required to use tear gas in order to take him into custody. I credit the professionalism and training of the officers and agents involved in the arrest that no one was hurt.”

Depetris entered a guilty plea in October. In his plea, he admitted he had been selling methamphetamine for more than a year when he was arrested. He also admitted that investigators serving search warrants on his residences in April and May 2004 seized more than 85 grams of pure methamphetamine and four handguns.

Three other people have been charged in the case, including Joshua Reed, who was sentenced to 15 years on drug and firearms charges; Michael Sarber, who is awaiting trial on drug and firearms charges; and Rebecca Barwig, who has pleaded guilty to lying to investigators when they asked how to locate Depetris. She is awaiting sentencing.

Melgren commended the agencies that participated in the investigation, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Wichita Police Department SWAT Team, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, and the Kansas Fire Marshal. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mona Furst is prosecuting

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